

SCI-TECH NEWS

Formerly Ye Alchemical Libraries Almanack

The Official Bulletin of the

SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY GROUP

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

CHEMISTRY • PETROLEUM • ENGINEERING-AERONAUTICS • PUBLIC UTILITIES • PHARMACEUTICAL • METALS

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No. 1

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

Here we are in a new bonnet and face and, we hope, with enough new insides to make this publication interesting enough to enough of our members to keep it coming to you. Since this issue goes only to paid subscribers, we shall try not to preach too much about the virtues of a Group Bulletin and why you should support it.

As you may know, we are strictly on probation for this year. Our trial is on the docket for the June Convention at Los Angeles. Last summer at Washington it was voted at the Group business meeting to continue for one more year. However, the officers decided in the fall that we would have to obtain more subscribers than in 1948. It is not fair to distribute the cost among 300 members if the other 1500 are not interested. We have not yet reached our goal of 500 subscribers announced in the December issue, but since the time was short and the expense and labor of returning checks and notices would approach that of putting out an issue, here we are with another reprieve. So far the bulletin has been operating barely at the break-even point for a \$1.50 subscription. As Li'l Abner would say, "any fool can plainly see" that if we had twice as many subscribers we could virtually halve the price. With three or four hundred more copies the additional printing cost would be negligible and the savings would be yours.

Now it is up to you to spread the gospel among your fellow Group members if you want us to continue in 1950. Discuss it with those you meet; bring it up at your local Group meetings; where you can, take a vote and authorize those who will be at the Los Angeles meeting to report on the majority opinion. Let's have it out then once and for all. It's certainly not that your editor and officers want the work, but being believers, we just can't understand why there are so many unbelievers in a bulletin. Perhaps we are too big and unwieldy a Group—Mr. Fagerhaugh's Group Structure Committee should be able to tell us soon.

If perchance, you who are believers should convince any others who haven't yet subscribed this year, it is still not too late. We have an optimistic supply of extras and can start new subscriptions with this issue. Be sure to have remittances sent with order, payable to Science-Technology Group, SLA and mailed to Miss Miriam Huddle, our Group Secretary.

BEILSTEIN COSTS

And how it does! Did you ever pay \$102.00 before for 1600 pages of unbound uncut books? That is

what Beilstein subscribers were forced to pay for the latest two-part volume of the series. We may be talking out of turn and without sufficient information, but if so we would be glad to have the explanation of where the gravy is going.

To you who have no interest in organic chemistry and therefore no Beilstein, it is a compendium of all the organic literature, which has now reached some 55 volumes; original cost \$2000+; American reprint cost \$500+. Naturally one can't let a set of that cost be broken, although we should think those who bought the complete reprint set would be sorely tempted to drop it. And now we are also offered the corrected and "revised" second German printing of the last wartime volume (Vol. 6, 2nd suppl.) at \$78.00 after buying the original American reprint for \$20.00 bound.

Maybe there is no cure, but we can not help comparing it with the Chemical Abstracts Decennial Index which is equally difficult to compile and sells at \$100 for six big volumes of very fine print.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nothing stirs up action like a few gripes aired in public. In our last issue the Group chairman asked for comments on the Group bulletin and Group affairs in general. On another page we quote from some of the responses. As you will see there are some controversial points and we hope they will move others to express their opinions. You may write to us under any pseudonym, with the request that your name be revealed only to the Group officers, or with permission to publish your name.

OUR OWN LITTLE PROJECT

Your editor, on discussing long range library expansion with his superior, was advised that top management likes to have definite figures and comparisons rather than just pleas for more space. Space is a problem which seems to be paramount with practically every librarian we meet. Therefore we believe many of you would be interested in having figures to present to your managements or finding out if you are pretty well off after all.

We would like to make a survey on technical library facilities with regard to square feet per technical employee and square feet per 1000 books. Would it be too much to ask that you send us these two figures? In our next issue we will report the results.

SCI-TECH NEWS

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TENTATIVE SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY GROUP CONVENTION PROGRAM

Los Angeles, Biltmore Hotel

June 11 to 18, 1949

Monday evening—General Dinner and Business Meeting.

Tuesday noon—Pharmaceutical Section. Lunch followed by business session and meeting on special services.

Tuesday afternoon—Engineering-Aeronautics Section. Possibly a panel discussion on aeronautical documentation followed by dinner (or preceded by lunch).

Wednesday noon—General lunch at the Athenaeum, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. Speaker Mr. O. W. Holloway O.T.S. Librarian on PB reports. Followed by a showing of colored sound motion picture of Mt. Palomar telescope. Followed by tour of Cal. Tech. Libraries and tea. The latter is open to all SLA members. Interested persons can make special visit to Mt. Wilson Observatory Library.

Wednesday evening—Chemistry Section. Dinner followed by meeting. Paper by Miss Margaret P. Hilligan, Librarian of General Mills Inc., describing their card index to the current literature, evaluating its preparation and use.

Thursday morning—Petroleum Section. Breakfast followed by meeting. Paper by Mr. A. B. Johnson, California Research Corp., on "Comparative Study of Documentation Methods in Petroleum Libraries" followed by discussion.

Thursday morning—(10:30) Metals Section. Symposium on foreign metallurgical literature.

Thursday noon—Public Utilities Section. Lunch and meeting.

Thursday afternoon—University and College Group at U.C.L.A. Panel discussion of U.C.L.A. branch libraries: special collections, engineering, bio-medicine, Institute of Industrial Relations. Tea at 4:00.

Friday morning—General SLA business meeting.

METALLURGY LITERATURE CLASSIFICATION

The Literature Classification Committee of the American Society for Metals on which Meredith Wright, National Carbon Co., and R. W. Kollar, Republic Steel

Corp., are the SLA representatives, met on January 13, in Cleveland to discuss the project. Dr. Yensen of Westinghouse Electric Corp., Chairman of the committee, states the purpose of the committee as being to devise a scheme of metallurgical literature classification adaptable to punch card filing, and which can be used by the individual metallurgist or research worker who collects his own data file.

First of all the committee considered existing systems such as Dewey Decimal Classification, Universal Decimal Classification, Guy and Geisler System, and War Metallurgy Committee Classification Scheme. The first two were soon eliminated because of their broad scope and complicated code designations. Turning to an original decimal system the committee considered whether the field of metals technology could be broken down into nine main headings (0 to 9), ninety main headings (10 to 99), or twenty-four main headings using the letters of the alphabet except "I" and "O". Bearing in mind correlation with the American Society for Metals publication *Review of Metal Literature* it was decided that an alphabetical system would be best for the main headings. After much discussion a tentative classification schedule was outlined as follows, leaving five letters open for future expansion: General Metallurgical, Ores and Ore Treatment, Smelting, Converting and Refining, Foundry, Mechanical Working, Other Fabrication Processes, Powder Metallurgy, Heat Treatment, Welding and Joining, Finishing, Constitution and Structure, Physical Properties, Mechanical Properties, Corrosion, Analysis and Inspection, Engineering Applications, Consumer Applications, Allied Fields.

A second meeting of the committee was scheduled for February 4, in Cleveland, to continue the work on this scheme.

As a commentary on this project, we quote an editorial giving the British reaction from *Metal Industry* (London) Dec. 31, 1948.

"Far be it from us to claim credit where none is due, and yet at the same time we can bask in a little reflected glory since a suggestion of our contributor "Skimmer" in our issue of Sept. 3 seems to have had repercussions across the Atlantic. Commenting on the Royal Society Information Conference, which had recently been held in London, "Skimmer" pointed out that librarians and information officers often fail to appreciate fully the needs of research workers who, in their turn, are not wholly cognizant of the difficulties which confront the former in the search for any particular piece of information. He suggested that a joint meeting or conference was badly needed to remedy this state of affairs, and that "birds of a feather should cease flocking together" before specialization in the bibliographic field has been carried too far. Now, according to *Metals Review*, just such an experiment was tried in October in Philadelphia, when some 60 metallurgists and forty librarians got together to talk about metallurgical literature classification and punch card filing. Discussion revealed that the thing most desired—by the metallurgist at least—is a standardized punch card system—comprehensive but simple—that he can apply to his own data files without suffering the headaches of preparing his own classification system and designing his own card."

"Outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a formal resolution that the Amer. Soc. for Metals in

conjunction with the Special Libraries Assn. should appoint a joint committee to work on the problem; and this resolution is now being considered by the two bodies. Leaving aside all such insinuations as to the tribute paid to a prophet in his own country, or disparaging parallels such as "What Skimmer thinks today . . .", it does seem to us that our American friends have stolen a march upon us, and are attempting something definitely worthwhile. In the abstracting field itself we, in this country are already well served, but we feel that the majority of metallurgists would agree with their American counterparts that a standardized punch card system is long overdue. Is not this an opportunity for our own metallurgical institutes to cooperate with the ASM and by obtaining the consensus of opinion in this country facilitate the adoption of an international standard of classification of metallurgical literature?"

DETERIORATION ABSTRACTING SERVICE

The National Research Council (Prevention of Deterioration Center, Room 204), 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D. C., is offering the "Prevention of Deterioration Abstracts" on a yearly subscription basis. These are classified under the following headings: Biological Agents; Electrical and Electronic Equipment; Fungicides and Other Toxic Compounds; Lacquers, Paints and Varnishes; Leather; Lubricants; Metals; Miscellaneous; Optical Instruments and Photographic Equipment; Packaging and Storage; Plastics, Resins, Rubbers and Waxes; Textiles and Cordage; Wood and Paper. Cross references are included in each issue, and author and subject indexes are compiled at the conclusion of each volume. Material for the Abstracts is obtained from journal articles, patents, and unpublished reports from government, university, and industrial research groups both here and abroad.

Approximately 2,000 pages will be published a year, in two volumes of 6 issues each. The individual abstracts are in loose-leaf form so that they may be arranged in any manner desired by the individual receiving them. Comments are added to many of the abstracts to correlate relevant information, to evaluate reports, or to make suggestions for further research.

The yearly subscription rate, which included two binders and index guides, is currently \$37.50. The rate will be \$50.00 for requests received after July 1, 1949. All subscriptions run from July 1 to June 30. Back issues are available from April 1946, when the series was started.

An "Advance List", a monthly bibliography of all the reports received in this field by the Prevention of Deterioration Center, is also available for an additional \$10.00 per year.

MARKET RESEARCH ABSTRACTING SERVICE

Market research information is being made available to interested parties in the form of an abstracting and indexing system. The information is being abstracted by Mr. Oliver Goddard and compiled by Dr. John R. Skeen, market research department of Foster D. Snell Inc. The firm will supply a summary each month of

any information that appeared in the literature (50 trade journals and major government publications). This summary will be broken down into chemicals. Since abstracts on many chemicals will total less than two pages annually, the company plans to allow interested parties to select any number of chemicals sufficient to provide full pages of information each month.

A CLARIFICATION OF SOME WASHINGTON SERVICES

Last fall the story was spreading around Philadelphia that an organization in Washington supplied specially prepared bibliographies on any subject to anyone who requested them and also had a speakers bureau service. In answer to a letter from Miss Nicholson, Chairman of the Philadelphia Sci-Tech Group, the following information was given.

The Director of the Chemical-Biological Coordination Center of the National Research Council wrote that the primary function of his organization is to assemble and organize information which relates the effect of the structure of chemicals to their biological action. During the approximate two years since the organization of the center they have developed both chemical and biological codes which permit coding the data so that punched cards can be used in facilitating their use in correlation studies. At that time, they had information in their files on some 25,000 compounds taken from the scientific literature published in 1946 and some in 1947, as well as from a number of reports issued during the war.

The Director states: "In the course of assembling this type of information we are compiling lists of references. However we do not consider it one of our functions to supply bibliographies since that problem is more properly the function of libraries. As we accumulate more data we hope to be able to render assistance to scientists by answering questions which they may ask concerning generalizations which may be drawn concerning the effect of chemical structure on a variety of biological actions."

The center does not have a speakers bureau although various members of its technical staff have delivered papers before a variety of scientific sessions describing the program of the center.

A reply from the chief of the Naval Research Science and Technology Project at the Library of Congress states that the services of the Project are available only to military agencies and contractors performing research and development work for military agencies. Hence the Project does not prepare "bibliographies on any subject" for the public.

UNITED STATES BOOK EXCHANGE

A bureau for the international exchange of books and periodicals between libraries, scientific and educational institutions of the United States and other countries has been opened in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The organization, known as the United States Book Exchange, is a successor to the American Book Center for War Devastated Libraries, Inc., and the executive director is Miss Alice D. Ball, formerly acting director of the Book Center. While the new organization will continue the rehabilitation program of the Book Center, libraries of foreign coun-

tries are expected to become members of the new Book Exchange and contribute material to the program as well as draw from it. During the past two and a half years, more than 1,250,000 volumes have been sent out by the Book Center, to war-devastated libraries in thirty-one countries. At first the activities of the Book Exchange are being limited to printed matter of scientific or literary character; this will include books, pamphlets, periodicals, government documents, music, printed leaflets, and occasional papers. At present no microfilm and microprint will be dealt with, and no motion pictures, art reproductions and newspapers; but it is hoped eventually to handle all types of printed and filmed material.

(See also Feb. SPECIAL LIBRARIES, page 72.)

JOURNAL SETS

Many science-technology libraries have a continuing problem of completing sets of out-of-print journals. Even some of the older libraries have long-felt wants in series which go back into the past century but are still important. No doubt you have been asked by Edwards Brothers and others what journals you would like to see reprinted. However, group action always is more effective. We would be glad to act as a clearing house for your requests and pass the information on to the proper sources. There seem to be at least four possibilities, of varying expense, in filling these gaps—buying the originals if or when available from second hand dealers, reprinted volumes, microcards and microfilms. Which course do you favor? At present we are very much interested in microcards and are only awaiting the publication of enough material in our line to warrant the purchase of a reader. One great contribution to this field already available is the Beilstein set.

NEWS TRAVELS

Mr. Ralph Hopp of Columbus, Ohio, gives as an example of the efficiency with which we information specialists work, the fact that within a few days after the arrival of his new son, Miss Gretchen Little in Wilmington heard about the event from Miss Hazel Mews of South Africa. No, it wasn't one of those short wave radio deals; Miss Mews had included both of their libraries in her visit to this country.

REPORTS ON PROJECTS

Numerical Index to PB Reports

The Chairman of the committee working on this project reports that it is due for publication in the late spring or early summer. Since starting the compilation the committee has found many additional headings which would be useful, other than a mere correlation of the PB numbers and Bibliography reference. They are anxious to hear from all who will buy the final work in order to decide how many of the chapters they will be able to afford and keep within the ten dollar maximum set. If any of you have been considering buying this publication but have not informed the committee, please let Miss Nicholson of Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Co. know whether you intend to buy (no formal orders yet, please) for either a \$7.00 or \$10.00 maximum cost.

In response to the post cards sent out to the subscription list of the Bibliography one company wired their request, and also suggested that they would be willing to pay up to \$100.00 for a copy of a cumulative subject index to the PB reports. Any volunteers for this task?

A copy of the preliminary table of contents and preface indicates that this publication is going to be much more than a list of numbers. The tentative headings are (1) Published classified lists and subject indexes, (2) Symbols, (3) PB number index, (4) German patent number index, (5) Classified German pending patent applications, (6) Japanese patent number index, and (7) PB report correlations with (a) B.I.O.S. final report, (b) C.I.O.S. evaluation report, (c) C.I.O.S. final report, (d) FD reports, (e) FIAT final report, (f) MDDC and AECD report and (g) OSRD report. The compiling committee feels that this volume will serve a number of purposes. It will facilitate the identification and acquisition of reports referred to in the technical literature and in U. S. Patent Office actions by their PB number or their United States or British government document series number. The correlations of document serial number with PB number may also be used to determine whether or not a serial numbered secrecy-classified report of government research has been declassified. Patent attorneys will find use for the lists in determining the dates of earliest publication of much original research.

Bibliography Pool Project

Over 50 unpublished bibliographies have been deposited in the Pool thus far. Mr. Ralph Hopp (Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus 1, Ohio) is always glad to receive more and to loan for one month, any of those available. As briefly as possible and without dates covered, we will list some of those now in the Pool: chlorine dioxide in organic chemistry; potash as a plant nutrient; economics of synthetic rubber; powdered metals; mineral nutrients of plant tissues; boron and its role as a plant nutrient; machinability tests; organic chemistry uses of magnesium other than Grignard reaction; zein; fish liver oil; infra-red photography; hydrogen in steel; U.S.D.A. Library bibliographies and lists; indexes of technical memorandums of U. S. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; motion picture photomicrography; spark photography and Schlieren photography; relation of color and music; tung oil; patents on degreasing metals; portable prefabricated bridges; ozonides. These will indicate the variety of the holdings and in our next issue we hope to have space for the remainder of the list.

Directory of Translators

With the purpose of bringing together in a so-called clearing house clients wanting technical translations made and translators having technical vocabulary and comprehension, the Sci-Tech Group plans to establish a Directory of Translators, to be housed at Southwestern Research Institute under the management of Wayne Kalenich, Librarian. Members of the Group are urged to assist by sending in to Mr. Kalenich names and addresses of translators known to them, together with appropriate data on languages and the subject areas with which these people are familiar. Indications given as to technical competence will be appreciated and kept confidential. Translators registered with the Directory are requested to file data with the Transla-

tions Pool concerning all translations made, unless contract with a client forbids.

The Committee appointed to guide the new enterprise consists of Harold Oatfield, chairman, Allen G. Ring and Wayne A. Kalenich. The Committee plans to have a board of referees to judge work of unknown translators as needed, but realizes that in a large measure it must rely at this stage upon information from firms and agencies that have employed the various translators for opinions on quality of work.

NEWS OF THE SECTIONS AND CHAPTERS

Petroleum Section

Tentative plans for the Convention program include a breakfast meeting with a program of specific interest to petroleum librarians only. A paper on "Services in Petroleum Libraries" is scheduled by a well known California librarian. In addition to a comprehensive paper, the section plans a general discussion on the subject of "Cooperative Abstracting for Petroleum Libraries." The subject will be introduced briefly to the meeting by two speakers, ("pro" and "con"), one of whom will be Miss Thelma Hoffman of the Shell Development Co. An open discussion on this subject is planned and all Petroleum librarians who are going to Los Angeles are urged to come prepared to express their views. To those who do not expect to attend the Convention, an invitation is extended to express their opinions in writing before the meeting to the Petroleum Section Chairman, Mr. J. G. Raymond of the Sinclair Refining Co., 630 Fifth Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

Metals Section

This new section is already organized and will be up for recognition at the Convention. They are planning a meeting which will pertain to foreign metallurgical literature and will include a symposium of three papers on the subjects of Russian Metallurgical Literature, Other Foreign Metallurgical Literature, and Translation Services.

Pharmaceutical Section

We believe congratulations are in order to this Section for the speedy establishment of their publication **Unlisted Drugs**. As far as we know, it is probably a record time for an SLA project. Issue No. 1 was out the first week in February. For further information if you have not had their prospectus, write to Miss Winifred Sewell, E. R. Squibb and Sons, Brooklyn 2, N. Y., Chairman of the Committee, or committee members Mrs. Mildred Clark or Miss Adelaide Hammargren.

Pittsburgh Chapter

The Science-Technology Group of Pittsburgh has had two interesting meetings so far this season. The first, Nov. 9, 1948, was a joint meeting with the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society and the High School Physics and Chemistry Teachers Club. There was a round table discussion of "The Industrial Library—Why?"—the justification for company libraries. At the second meeting, Jan. 31, 1949, Mr. Morris Schrero, newly appointed librarian of the Technology Department of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, talked on "The Ramblings of a Librarian in Chicago." Mr. Schrero discussed the organization

and activities of the Illinois chapter of SLA and described the salient features of various libraries he had visited in and around Chicago.

Kansas City Chapter

In the Kansas City chapter the Sci-Tech Group as such has no existence separate from that of the chapter, however the membership of the chapter is composed principally of Science librarians. Early in March the Sci-Tech Group has charge of the chapter meeting and hopes to present a program of interest to all.

St. Louis Chapter

St. Louis is a chapter of widely varied interests and the Science-Technology members have never asserted themselves independently. However, an activity of the Recruiting Committee of the Chapter on February 20, 1949, may be of interest. The Chapter was represented by Miss Irene Marten of Union Electric Co., Mrs. Elizabeth Owens of Mercantile Commerce Bank and Trust Co., Mr. Roy King of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Mrs. Krimhilde Williams, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., in the "Quiz of Two Cities" on radio station KMOX, versus the Kansas City Chapter as represented by Miss Jane Ahern, R. J. Potts, Calkins and Holden Advertising Agency, Mr. Theodore Cutler, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, R. C. Jane-way, University of Kansas, and Sarah Lechtman, Midwest Research Institute.

The results were too late for our press time but of minor importance in comparison with the publicity obtained for SLA.

Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Chapter has undertaken a union list project just recently. Each member of the Science-Technology Group will contribute to a union catalog of periodical holdings of the libraries represented in the Group. The catalog is to be supplementary to the **Union List of Serials in the Libraries of Metropolitan Detroit**, in as far as their own libraries go. The cards contributed will be housed in the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library. Anyone will be welcome to call them for location of material and in time the Group hopes to issue a mimeographed list for distribution.

Puget Sound Chapter

Mr. Bernard Lane of Monsanto Chemical Co., Western Division, is heading a committee to compile a "Short Cuts" manual. He is anxious for any ideas for eliminating needless work. Do any members use special forms and color codes to save time, or what has anyone made of wood, wire or paper that works better than anything purchased? A description, sketch or sample would be appreciated by Mr. Lane (911 Western Ave., Seattle 4, Wash.).

Louisiana Chapter

Louisiana is another Chapter in which Science-Technology members are in too small a minority to form a separate section. However, the Sci-Tech members are active within the Chapter. At the winter meeting held on February 4 and 5, 1949, Mrs. Elizabeth Owens, Chapter Liaison Officer, spoke in Baton Rouge. Miss Florien McKnight, Sci-Tech representative of the Chapter and librarian of the Esso Laboratories Library in Baton Rouge, introduced the idea of a periodicals exchange for the benefit of the Sci-Tech members. By

correspondence with the members scattered over five states, she hopes to pursue the matter and be able—at the May meeting—to present plans for a clearing house or other suitable method for acquiring and for disposing of duplicates.

New York Chapter

The main theme of the program for this season is recent advances in documentation. Some very interesting advances in this field are being made by Government agencies, by the American Chemical Society Punched Card Committee and others. At last word the Group hoped to have speakers representing the various organizations involved at four meetings and in alternate months open house at some member libraries.

Southern California Chapter

The Southern California Sci-Tech Group had a brief January meeting before the regular Chapter meeting at the John Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation in Los Angeles to discuss Convention plans, a proposal to collaborate with the American Chemical Society in publishing a Union list of Chemical Periodicals in Southern California, and to make plans for their April meeting, at which time the regular Chapter meeting will be handled by the Sci-Tech Group and held at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, China Lake, California, as the guests of Mrs. Mable Walker, Supervisor of the Library Unit in the Technical Library and Editorial Section. The February meeting of the Chapter was held at the White Memorial Hospital Medical Library with Dr. George T. Harding, an eminent psychiatrist, speaking on "Psychiatric Effects of Reading."

OUR MEMBERS IN PRINT

J. Alan MacWatt, Librarian of Lederle Laboratories Division of American Cyanamid has a good brief article on "The Research Library in the Pharmaceutical Field" in the Fall 1948 issue of *Industrial Trends*. One good point brought out is that we should be careful to distinguish between scientific and library research. The Librarian should avoid direct answers to questions involving judgment, but present references to the scientist which will enable him to make his own decision.

R. H. Whitford, Physics-Chemistry Librarian at C. C. N. Y. and J. B. O'Farrell, Technology Librarian there have written a very complete discussion of "Use of a Technical Library," which is published in *Mechanical Engineering* for Dec. 1948. Any of the mechanical engineers or C. C. N. Y. students should be much more efficient users of the engineering libraries after reading this.

The January 1949 *Bulletin of the Medical Library Assn.*, has several articles which may be of interest to many of our readers—"Microcards", by their inventor, Fremont Rider; "Abstracting and Indexing" by Mrs. Chloe Brewer, Medical Librarian, of the Grace Hospital in Detroit; "The Fine Art of Indexing" by Martha Ann Mann, of the Library and Indexing Service, American Dental Assn.; and one from management's point of view—"What Scientific Libraries Can Do for Industry" by Dr. Theodore Klumpp, President of Winthrop-Stearns Inc.

THUMBNAIL BOOK-LOOKS

Sources of Engineering Information. Blanche H. Dalton, Engineering Librarian, University of California, Berkeley. (U. of Cal. Press, 1948)

The material in the book was first used to teach faculty members and graduate students in engineering how to make effective use of the library as an aid to research. It remains as an outline most intelligible to a librarian assisting an individual wishing to find publications in a specialized field.—Reviewed in *Jour. Chem. Education*, Feb. 1949.

The Presentation of Technical Information. Reginald O. Kapp (Constable and Co., Ltd., London, 1948)

A small book based on a course of lectures given at University College, London to advanced student engineers for the purpose of aiding them in improving their reports. The author's style requires rather close reading because it is so full of significant examples of methods of expression, pointing out common pitfalls and ways of avoiding them. (Highly recommended by your Ed. and Ed. of Chemistry and Industry—Oct. 16, 1948 p. 658).

Documentation. S. C. Bradford. (Crosby Lockwood and Son, Ltd., 1948)

The author has been expounding for many years on the virtues of the decimal classification system and the desirability of its universal adoption. He has finally organized the material in this book as a first comprehensive work in English on the classification. Chapter 1 opens with this statement: "Documentation is an art of practical necessity, practiced by a brotherhood of enthusiastic devotees whose painstaking altruistic labours contribute, in modest obscurity, towards the progress of society." From this, his theme is developed in adequate detail. Chapters on the organization of a library service in science and technology, and special libraries and special information services are included. (This and preceding review contributed by Miss Lucille Jackson.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

In sorting through a stack of papers, I came across the December 1948 Almanack and found a note asking those who do not subscribe in 1949 to please give reasons therefor. Probably the reason I didn't and don't see fit to subscribe is simply that the spirit does not so move me. . . . I am very favorably impressed with the message by Miss Little in the above mentioned Almanack. On the other hand, it has been my experience that when I have offered to be of service to various members of SLA and in particular to some in the Sci-Tech Group that I have met with none too polite rebuffs, verging closely on insulting snobbishness. . . . SLA (and Sci-Tech) mail comes bearing postage stamps rather than by a mailing permit, indicating a refusal to practice economy in both time and money. . . . Actually I rather like your Almanack; probably I ought to subscribe. Anyway, best of wishes.

A New York Sci-Tech Member.

(Editor's Note): We hope that not many of our readers have to "sort through a stack of papers" to find this issue. Here is a warning to those looking for workers on projects, etc., to make any rebuffs which are necessary more polite and diplomatic. Heaven knows we need the workers! We cannot speak for Headquarters, but as for us amateurs and volunteers in Sci-

Tech work, we certainly try our best to practice all possible economies in mailing and otherwise. It is our understanding that preprinted postage would not be economical for our purposes.

Dear Sir:

I found this paper very interesting and well worth the money, but its name irritates me. It always reminds me of Ye Olde English Tea Shoppe.

A Canadian Member.

Dear Sir:

The December 1948 issue of the Group Bulletin arrived today (Dec. 15) and I want to compliment you and the new editor for a mighty swell job, also the Philadelphia members for their excellent cooperation in getting the publication into the mail.

The issue is chuck full of worthwhile professional information. . . . A swell job was done on reporting the June Convention and the Chairman's report of the Advisory Council Meeting at Cleveland in November was of special interest. . . .

I sincerely hope that you will get the 500 renewal subscribers that you need, for it is well worth the price.

A Washington D. C. Member.

(Editor's Note): We hope that not many members gave credit to the new editor for the December issue. As acknowledged on the last page of that issue, all due credit should go to the Philadelphia-Wilmington members mentioned. As a matter of fact, the new editor did not even see a word of the material until his copy arrived on Dec. 28.

Dear Sir:

As suggested in the recent Ye Alchemical Libraries Almanack I am returning the subscription blank with

comments in lieu of subscription. My reasons for not subscribing are as follows:

I already receive through membership or subscription, Special Libraries, D. C. Libraries, Chapter Notes, ALA Bulletin and College and Research Libraries. This seems like about enough, especially as Special Libraries really gives quite good coverage of Group activities and reports of National activities are given at local Group meetings. . . .

I just don't think I could bring myself to approve by a subscription a title like Ye Alchemical Libraries Almanack, or a design like the one at the masthead. Lot's of people think it's cute. I just don't happen to like the quaint. . . .

A Washington D. C. Member.

(Editor's Note): We have no quarrel with the publications mentioned but some of us out here in the wild west do not have local S-T groups, do not belong to ALA and furthermore, 25% or more of the SLA members are Associate and therefore do not see Special Libraries.

Getting out a paper is sometimes fun, but it is never a picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly.

If we don't, they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write 'em ourselves.

If we don't, we are too fond of our own stuff.

If we print contributions, the paper is filled with junk.

If we don't, we don't appreciate true genius.

Now like as not, someone will say we swiped this piece from some other paper.

WE DID—from the Syracuse Chemist—

They swiped it from Cenco News Chats—

Who swiped it from someone else.

ABSTRACTS FROM AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING—DIVISION OF CHEMICAL EDUCATION

Problems Involved in Establishing and Operating a Technical Library in a Large Research Laboratory,
by Dr. Spencer C. Stanford, Brookhaven
National Laboratory, Upton, L. I., N. Y.

Brookhaven National Laboratory is operated by Associated Universities, Inc. (several large eastern universities) under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission. Its purpose is to undertake nuclear research requiring too much and too expensive equipment for a single university to finance.

During the past year a collection of eighteen thousand volumes and five hundred periodical subscriptions have been acquired. A staff of twenty-two has been installed.

A weekly reading list and a Guide to Russian Scientific periodical Literature are published. Bibliographies and translations are made to the extent that time permits. A punch-card index of abstracts on nuclear energy is planned.

Perspectives for Future Development of the Gmelin Handbuch, by Dr. E. Pietsch, Gmelin Institute, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany.

The purpose of the Gmelin "Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie" has been the presentation of an extensive and critical summary of information pertinent to the field of inorganic chemistry. As a result of the volume of work in the field, delay amounting to several years exists between publication of research and reporting in Gmelin. The Gmelin Institute is now engaged in developing a system of indexing and classification based on punched-card technique, which, it is believed, will overcome many existing difficulties causing delay. Volumes on Selenium Compounds and Antimony Chemistry were recently published. The Platinum volume is due this fall. (Editor's Note): Just received (Feb. 14) an ad from Walter Johnson, Inc. for Selenium—available Feb. and Antimony and Platinum—available Mar. 1949.

ACADEMIC LITERATURE-SCIENCE UNIT.

William F. Hewitt, Jr., Howard University,
Washington, D. C.

The increasing quantity and specialization of scientific literature are responsible for the emergence of the literature scientist. Industry for some decades, and the American Chemical Society recently, have recognized the special field and the specialist. Industrial and governmental laboratories commonly employ literature science teams whose members are: scientists interested in problems of communication; librarians interested in the sciences; and assistants to both types of profession-level employees. It is accepted widely that the activities of such groups result in: greater availability of the laboratory specialist for bench research; the addition of a major source to the idea generating apparatus of the organization; and advance in the principles and techniques of science intelligence.

Such benefits should be extended to educational institutions and the scientists who man their laboratories. Academic literature-science teams could add to the desirable functions of such units, another of greater interest, perhaps, to this division: the teaching of literature-science and the training of its specialists. The present paper outlines possible forms and integrations of such units in various types and levels of academic bodies; itemizes investigative, instructional, and administrative undertakings of literature science groups; and summarizes the author's experience in forming such an agency in a medical faculty.

Scientific Information Problems of the National Military Establishment. Eugene W. Scott and Norman T. Ball, Research and Development Board, National Military Establishment, Washington, D. C.

A research program involving expenditure of more than \$500,000,000 annually on more than 10,000 indi-

vidual research and development projects has confronted the National Military Establishment with a scientific information problem of exceptional magnitude and difficulty. Scientific information requirements differ in nature at various levels within the National Military Establishment. Thus the need of top administrative levels charged with overall coordination of the program for a comprehensive picture of the research and development projects differs sharply from the need of engineers and experimental scientists for technical information relating to specific problems. Security requirements introduce a further complicating factor. The scientific information problem confronting the National Military Establishment is being actively attacked by its Research and Development Board. This attack was initiated by the formation of a committee with advisers from among the country's outstanding experts on publishing, abstracting, indexing, classifying, and coding scientific information. Based on the committee's recommendations, a comprehensive program directed to making scientific information more usefully available is being developed.

Committee on Punched Cards, ACS, An Interim Report, by J. W. Perry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

The wide use of McBee cards was given as proof that something more than "Chemical Abstracts" is desired. In Dr. Perry's opinion the McBee cards are not nearly flexible enough and IBM machines are improperly designed for sorting ideas. Most of the Committee's work has centered on (1) machine design; (2) writing papers for ACS; (3) preparation of the punched-card bibliography (now available at the Washington office); (4) preparation of a book on punched-cards (now in process). It is hoped that a new coding system can be devised.

